

and descending relationships, but it appears that in later times marriages between brother and sister were disapproved.<sup>1</sup>

523. The term "incest" was applied at Rome to the case of a man present at the purification of women, on the feast of the *Bona Dea*, May I.<sup>2</sup> The sense of the word is, then, nearly equal to "profane." The emperor Claudius married his niece Agrip-pina and made such marriages lawful. Gaius<sup>3</sup> restricted this precedent to its exact form, marriage of a brother's daughter, not sister's daughter, and further restricted it, if the brother's daughter was in any forbidden degree of affinity.

524. In the Ynglinga saga Niord takes his sister to wife, because the law of Van-land allowed it, although that of the Ases did not.<sup>4</sup> Other cases in the *Edda* go to show that the taboo on such marriages was not in the ancient mores of Scandinavia.<sup>5</sup> In the German poems of the twelfth century it belongs to the description of the heathen kings that they are fierce and suspicious towards all who woo their daughters, and that they sometimes intend to marry their own daughters after the death of their queens.<sup>6</sup>

525. Those Arabs of Arabia Felix who practiced fraternal polyandry also formed unions with their mothers.<sup>7</sup> Robertson Smith thinks that this means the fathers' wives.<sup>8</sup> The Arabs were convinced of the evil of marriage between cousins.<sup>9</sup>

526. A mediaeval traveler reports of the Mongols that they paid no heed to affinity in marriage. They took two sisters at once or in succession. The only limitation was that they must not marry mothers, daughters, or sisters by the same mother.<sup>10</sup> In Burma and Siam, at least until very recent times, in the royal families of the different subdivisions brothers

and sisters  
married.<sup>11</sup>

527. In Russia, in the seventeenth century, men in  
the govern-  
ment service who were often sent out on duty and  
had no homes,

1 Becker-Hermann, *Charikles*, III, 288.  
*Nibelungen*, 334.

6 Lichtenberger,

•s Rossbach, *Rom. Eke*, 266.

i Strabo, XVI, 4, 25, or 783.

\* *Instit.*, I, 62.

tj<sub>ot</sub> *Philol.*, IX, 86.

<sup>4</sup> Laing, *Sagas of the Norse Kings*, 1,273.  
*beiden Arabern*, 441.

9 Wellhausen, *Ehe*

\* Weinhold, *Z>. F<sub>n</sub> I*, 235.

10 Rubruck, *Eastern Parts*, 77.

U Yule, *CourtofaVa,%6*.